

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 /031 W

----- 045633

R 101514Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3162

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 19026

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB UK FR US UR

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR DEATH OF RUDOLF HESS

REFS: (A) BONN 11216; (B) USBER 1277; (C) BONN 10294;
(D) SEMLER-GERMAN OFFICIAL/INFORMAL, OCTOBER 19,
1976 (ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ALLIED EMBASSIES HAVE REACHED AD REF AGREEMENT
ON A SCENARIO FOR AN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS CONCERNING
CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE DEATH OF RUDOLF HESS. THE
PURPOSE OF THIS APPROACH WOULD BE TO CONFIRM THE 1970
AGREEMENT BUT TO MODIFY IT SO THAT HESS' BODY WOULD BE
TURNED OVER TO HIS FAMILY. END SUMMARY.

1. WORKING ON THE BASIS OF A SCHEMA DEVELOPED BY ALLIED
MISSIONS IN BERLIN, ALLIED EMBASSIES HAVE REACHED AD REF
AGREEMENT ON A SCENARIO FOR AN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS
CONCERNING THE CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE DEATH OF RUDOLF
HESS. THE PURPOSE OF THE ALLIED APPROACH WOULD BE TO
OBTAIN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO A MODIFICATION 1970

AGREEMENT WHICH STIPULATED THAT HESS' BODY WOULD BE
CREMATED AND THE ASHES RETURNED TO HIS FAMILY. WE WOULD
HOPE TO HAVE THE 1970 AGREEMENT MODIFIED SO AS TO
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PERMIT THE RETURN OF THE BODY ITSELF TO THE HESS FAMILY.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCENARIO, AS SLIGHTLY MODIFIED BY EMBASSIES, WOULD ENTAIL AN ALLIED APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS IN BERLIN WITH THE PURPOSE OF

-- CONFIRMING THE 1970 AGREEMENT AND OBTAINING AN AMENDMENT OF IT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE BODY WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE FAMILY FOR SUCH DISPOSITION OUTSIDE BERLIN AS THE FAMILY DESIRED, AND

-- OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1970 AGREEMENT, EITHER AS AMENDED OR IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

3. ACCORDING TO THE SCENARIO, ONE OF THE ALLIED AMBASSADORS SHOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

-- WE FAVOR THE RELEASE OF HESS AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE.

-- HOWEVER, AS HE IS 82 YEARS OLD AND COULD DIE AT ANY TIME, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THAT POSSIBILITY.

-- THE 1970 AGREEMENT STIPULATES THE RETURN OF HESS' REMAINS TO THE FAMILY AFTER THE CREMATION OF HIS BODY.

-- WE SHALL ABIDE BY THE 1970 AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, WE WOULD WISH TO REVIEW ONE ASPECT OF IT.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT HESS' BODY SHOULD NOT BE CREMATED BY THE ALLIES.

-- RATHER, THE BODY SHOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE FAMILY FOR BURIAL OR CREMATION OUTSIDE OF BERLIN.

-- THE NUREMBERG SENTENCE ENTAILED LIFE IMPRISONMENT. UPON HESS' DEATH THE SENTENCE WILL HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT.

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-- TO PREVENT COMPLICATIONS OR DEMONSTRATION, THE BODY WOULD REMAIN IN ALLIED CUSTODY IN BERLIN AND WOULD BE FLOWN OUT OF THE CITY BY AN AIRCRAFT PROVIDED BY THE WESTERN ALLIES.

AT THIS POINT, THE ALLIED AMBASSADOR WOULD HAND ABRASIMOV A ONE-PAGE PAPER LAYING OUT THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ANTICIPATED CHRONOLOGY OF SUCH

A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IF THE 1970 AGREEMENT WERE TO BE SO
MODIFIED.

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4. THE SCENARIO ENVISAGES SEVERAL POSSIBLE RESPONSES
BY ABRASIMOV.

-- IF HE SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY, THE ALLIED
AMBASSADOR SHOULD SUGGEST THAT THE EXPERTS -- THE
SPANDAU GOVERNORS OR THE POLADS -- SHOULD PIN DOWN THE
DETAILS.

-- IF HE SHOULD ASK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SPANDAU,
THE ALLIED AMBASSADOR SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE PRISON
WOULD REVERT TO BRITISH CONTROL AS ITS FUNCTION WOULD
BE AT AN END.

-- IF HE SHOULD SUGGEST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
MUSEUM/MEMORIAL AT SPANDAU, THE ALLIED AMBASSADOR
SHOULD OPPOSE SUCH A MOVE. (AS A FALLBACK, THE
ALLIES MIGHT ACCEPT A PLAQUE OR A SMALL, FINAL CEREMONY.)

-- IF ABRASIMOV REACTS NEGATIVELY TO THE PROPOSAL,
A FURTHER APPROACH IN CAPITALS, PERHAPS AT THE #
LEVEL, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. IF THAT ALSO FAILED, THE

MATTER WOULD BE RAISED AGAIN IN BERLIN AT THE POLAD
LEVEL FOR THE PURPOSES OF RESERVING OUR RIGHT TO RETURN
TO QUESTION AND TO CONFIRM THE DETAILS FOR IMPLEMENTING
THE 1970 AGREEMENT. AT THAT TIME, THE SOVIETS WOULD
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BE HANDED A PAPER LAYING OUT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS
AND AN ANTICIPATED CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR THE
CREMATION OF THE BODY UNDER THE 1970 AGREEMENT AND THE
RETURN OF THE ASHES TO THE FAMILY.

5. CONCERNING MODALITIES FOR THIS APPROACH, TWO
POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED.

-- IT COULD BE DONE DURING LUNCHEON WITH ABRASIMOV
BY ONE OF THE ALLIED AMBASSADORS, OR

-- IT COULD BE DONE IN A SPECIAL MEETING FOR THAT
PURPOSE BETWEEN ABRASIMOV AND ONE OF THE ALLIED
AMBASSADORS, MOST LOGICALLY SIR OLIVER WRIGHT.

6. ONCE ALL THREE CAPITALS HAVE APPROVED THE APPROACH
OUTLINED ABOVE, THE THREE EMBASSIES WILL WORK OUT AMONG
THEMSELVES MODALITIES AND TIMING.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT APPROVE THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCENARIO DESCRIBED ABOVE.
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, POW, AGREEMENTS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN19026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760419-0072
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761164/aaaacddu.tel
Line Count: 203
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 BONN 11216, 76 USBERLIN 1277, 76 BONN 10294
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR DEATH OF RUDOLF HESS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, UK, FR, US, UR, (HESS, RUDOLF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006